

MEYERA E. OBERNDORF  
MAYOR

## City of Virginia Beach

MUNICIPAL CENTER  
BUILDING 1  
2401 COURTHOUSE DRIVE  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9000  
(757) 427-4581  
FAX (757) 426-5699

August 16, 2000

Mayor Paul D. Fraim  
City of Norfolk  
1109 City Hall Building  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Subject: Super Hornet Basing

Dear Mayor Fraim: *Paul*

At our July Mayors and Chairs meeting, I distributed the Resolution adopted by the Virginia Beach City Council (copy attached) requesting that the Navy have all of the east coast F/A-18E/F aircraft, the so-called "Super Hornets," based in Hampton Roads at Naval Air Station Oceana. Oceana is currently home to all of the Navy's F-14 and the majority of the east coast F/A-18 aircraft. All of the F-14 aircraft will be taken out of the Navy's inventory over the next few years as well as many of the F/A-18C/D aircraft. They are to be replaced by the Super Hornet aircraft beginning in the year 2004. The Navy is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on where to site these Super Hornet aircraft. Virginia Beach is in consideration, along with Beaufort, South Carolina, Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Meridian Naval Air Station in Mississippi.


The movement of the Super Hornet aircraft to Oceana will merely replace and maintain the number of aircraft currently stationed at Oceana; somewhat less than 300. Oceana contributes approximately \$700 million in salaries and \$500 million in the purchase of goods and services to the region's economy. Also, the average salaries paid at Oceana are \$6,000 more, when non-cash benefits are considered, than the average salary in Hampton Roads. I know you can see the importance of doing everything possible to have those aircraft stationed here and maintain Oceana as the east coast Master Jet Base for the Navy.

As I mentioned in our meeting, I respectfully request that you have your respective City Councils consider adopting a Resolution similar to that adopted by the City Council of Virginia Beach. As you can see, besides requesting the Super Hornets to be stationed here, Council is also requesting that the Navy consider construction of an additional outlying field to reduce the noise impacts created when the planes conduct touch-and-go landings at Fentress Auxiliary Landing Field in Chesapeake and Oceana Naval Air Station.

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Your assistance with this important regional economic development priority would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meyera".

Meyera E. Oberndorf  
Mayor

MEO/at

Attachment

c: J. K. Spore, City Manager  
R.R. Matthias, Assistant to the City Manager  
Art Collins, HRPDC

Requested by Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf

1  
2 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LOCATION OF THE EAST  
3 COAST F/A-18 E AND F MODEL AIRCRAFT AT OCEANA  
4 NAVAL AIR STATION

5  
6 WHEREAS, Oceana Naval Air Station is the base for the Navy's  
7 East Coast F/A-18 C and D model aircraft and all of the Navy's F-14  
8 aircraft;

9 WHEREAS, the F-14 aircraft will be retired from the Navy's  
10 inventory over the coming years and will be replaced by the F/A-18  
11 E and F model aircraft;

12 WHEREAS, the Navy is in the process of conducting a number of  
13 public meetings as part of the scoping process for preparation of  
14 an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the East Coast location  
15 of the F/A-18 E and F model aircraft; and

16 WHEREAS, the City of Virginia Beach has consistently supported  
17 maintaining Oceana Naval Air Station as the master jet base on the  
18 East Coast as evidenced by its support for the relocation of the  
19 F/A-18 C and D models to Oceana in the interest of our national  
20 defense, and in the interest of naval personnel and their families  
21 who benefit from the availability of numerous spousal employment  
22 opportunities, excellent housing, quality education, and the  
23 general quality of life in Virginia Beach.

24 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
25 VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA:

26 That City Council hereby encourages the Navy, through the  
27 scoping process of the Environmental Impact Statement, to consider  
28 Oceana Naval Air Station as the preferred alternative for placement  
29 of all the east coast F/A-18 E and F model aircraft; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

31 That City Council hereby requests the Navy to actively  
32 investigate the construction of an alternative outlying field to  
33 Fentress Naval Auxiliary Landing Field in the City of Chesapeake as

34 part of the Environmental Impact Statement process or through  
35 independent study.

36 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

37 That City Council is desirous of making sure that the opinions  
38 of every affected citizen group in the City be taken into  
39 consideration before Council takes action on the draft  
40 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Council will therefore  
41 establish an 11 member Super Hornet Commission that will have  
42 representatives from the business Community, citizen action groups,  
43 the military (if applicable), civic leagues, and other  
44 organizations as determined by City Council to make a  
45 recommendation on what should be the official position of the City  
46 when the draft Environmental Impact Statement is published late  
47 next year. City Council agrees to take a formal vote on the  
48 recommendations of the commission.

49

50 Adopted by the City Council of the City of Virginia Beach,  
51 Virginia on the 11 day of July, 2000.

52  
53 CA-7795  
54 ODIN/NONCODE/F18Resolution.wpd  
55 R-4  
56 July 11, 2000